

Crakehall with
Langthorne Parish
Council's
Bimonthly Newsletter
August 2022
Number 25

The **Parish Council** met on **20 July 2022** in Crakehall Village Hall and was attended by all six councillors. **Richard Bocking**, who will take over as clerk on 1 August 2022 when Chris McGee steps down, was also present. The main points from the meetings were:

Two memorials in the cemetery are unstable and therefore a cause for concern, (although one is adjudged to be a minimum risk). Estimates for repairs were sought and a contractor has now been appointed.

A further incidence of **Giant Hogweed** on The Batts has been reported – the contractor has been notified the plants have been removed.

A **concrete post** on The Green near the post box has been knocked over and will require replacing. A new post has been purchased and the contractor has agreed to do the work as soon as possible.

Councillors agreed a list of “**Preferred Contractors**” but also a system of rotating the use of them so that none are favoured over others. Applications to join the list may be made at any time.

The latest **Police Speed Check data** included some evening visits and, at 26 offences per visit, showed an increase compared to 2021. The latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign gave 85th percentile speeds as:

- Great Crakehall – **31.5 mph** (but with 19.8% of 77000 vehicles exceeding 30 mph)
- Little Crakehall – **32.4 mph** (but with 24.8% of 75000 vehicles exceeding 30 mph)

Following the exchange of emails with NYCC about Highways refusal to provide **40mph buffer zones** at either end of the village on the A684 a **comprehensive response** was finally received on 6 July 2022 (and is available in full on the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page). It provides some reassurance that the request has at least been carefully considered. In acknowledging it, the clerk was asked to comment that, if such a response had been received when the initial request had been made in February 2022, a lot of NYCC and Parish Council Officer time could have been saved. A referral to the ombudsman for maladministration was not thought to be appropriate as it would simply

waste more officer time but it was agreed that the acknowledgment should be copied to NYCC's Chief Executive for information.

The road from Bedale to Crakehall had been re-marked but this had not included the “**rumble strips**” at the entrance to the village. The clerk will pursue this with Highways.

The **Queen's Platinum Jubilee photo of Crakehall residents** had been made available for download via www.crakehall.org.uk but a copy will now be printed and framed and, subject to the agreement of the Village Hall Management Committee, be hung in the Stembridge Room alongside the photo from a previous jubilee. (

The council had received a request to support the PCC's fund-raising efforts to restore the **church clock in Crakehall**. Councillors noted that the circumstances under which parish councils can provide financial support for church activities and buildings are limited in law so the clerk was asked to explore with the PCC any possibilities that would be legal. Subject to a positive outcome, **a provisional sum of £500 was identified** to be released only when work on the clock was about to begin.

Councillors reconsidered the offers made by **The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and the Kerfoot Group** to provide land management services proposed a number of projects (including maintaining The Pinfold, beck-side

If you have any issues that you would like the Parish Council to discuss please contact Richard Bocking, Clerk to the Council:

Email – cwlpc.clerk@gmail.com; Tel – 07885 529999

fence painting, clearing brambles on The Green, clearing an overgrown area on the bankside in Little Crakehall and clearing kerbside vegetation in Langthorne.

Following recommendations from recent inspections of **Play Park** equipment it was agreed that each site should have a sign indicating the name and address of the playground, contact details and the “what3words” location references.

A replacement part has been ordered from KOMPAN for the **broken swing on The Green**.

Cllr Stirke noted that, once again this year, some **public rights of way** across fields were not accessible. She also advised that the young driver of **the tractor who had recently been speeding** through Langthorne had been reprimanded by his family. And finally, she wished to place on record thanks to the farmer who had cut the **grass verges** from Bowbridge Lane through Langthorne to Kirkbridge. She felt this was significant contribution towards road safety.

The work undertaken at the **Old Chapel** by Barrie Morris was noted and very much appreciated. The clerk noted difficulties in getting any contractors to provide estimates for work to restore the bell tower and paint fascia boards.

Cllr Neale indicated that he had been approached by a parishioner expressing concerns about **stones placed on the grass verges at the northern entrance to Langthorne**. The clerk was able to confirm that the issue had previously been raised with him by NYCC and, after an inspection, Highways had confirmed that they were content that the stones could remain in place as the locations did not present any highway safety issues.

And finally, the Chairman formally introduced **Richard Bocking** who will be taking over as clerk from 1 August 2022 when **Chris McGee** stands down. Chris has offered his availability to Richard, and to the council more generally, on a voluntary basis to ensure a smooth period of transition. Councillors thanked Chris for his commitment and work as clerk over the last four years.

Cllrs reviewed the current situation with regard to the **allotment on Mastil Lane** and agreed a number of actions to continue to pursue the council’s claim for ownership of the land.

For further details about any of the items in this newsletter and many others not included here please see the full minutes of the meeting at the Parish Council section of www.crakehall.org.uk

The **Next Meeting of the Parish Council** will be held on **Wednesday 21 September 2022** at 7.30pm in Crakehall Village Hall.

Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council Members’ Email Addresses

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If you require further contact information for members please contact the clerk, Richard Bocking – cwlpc.clerk@gmail.com

*And finally, many congratulations to **Myra Shield** who has been appointed by the Parish Council as an Honorary Burgess and given Freedom of the Parish for her services to the community over many many years. Although the award has no legal significance and provides no additional rights or privileges, it is a public statement of the esteem with which the community regards her.*